

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

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A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND THE IDAHO COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Did your city get an Arbor Day grant?
Check the list on page 3.*

Coordinator's Column

Urban and Community Forestry in Congress – Legislation that Impacts Idaho's Community Forests

While a few major pieces of legislation have dominated the news, Congress has been working on other bills too—including a few that involve urban and community forestry. Those that would be most likely to affect communities in Idaho include:

Small Business Environmental Stewardship Assistance Act of 2010 – H.R. 4509 Many of us who were involved in urban and community forestry efforts in the early 1990's remember the SBA Tree Planting Program. Running from 1991 to 1995, this program provided grants to cities to plant trees on public property. It helped create local jobs by requiring that trees were purchased from and planted by small businesses. H.R. 4509 would reauthorize this program at \$50 million per year from 2011 to 2015. It has been introduced in the House of Representatives and is currently awaiting action in the House Committee on Small Business. Idaho Representative Walt Minnick is one of the bill's co-sponsors.

Section 205 of the American Clean Energy and Securities Act (ACES) – H.R. 2454, also called the Cap and Trade bill, would authorize a grant program for strategic tree planting around homes and small office buildings for energy conservation. This Department of Energy program would provide funding to retail energy providers. They, in turn, would work with tree planting non-profits, state forestry agencies and communities to provide free or low cost trees for homeowners and businesses that would be placed to maximize energy reduction benefits. This bill would substantially develop and enhance utility efforts to lower demand-side energy use. This bill was passed by the House and awaits action in the Senate as we go to press.

To learn more about these bills—including the text, co-sponsors, status, amendments, hearings, actions, cost estimates and much more—go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. Type the bill number in the search box, click the *bill number* button and click on *Search*.

continued on page 2

Hayden Completes Tree and Pedestrian-Friendly Project

Several years ago when the City of Hayden began planning for downtown improvement, it made it clear in its development and design standards that a high priority was pedestrian-friendly improvements. For any community to 'soften' its built environment and make its streets inviting to visitors, residents and shoppers, trees are essential. And so it was in Hayden's plans. To turn plans into reality, a Community Transportation Enhancement grant was received to help with purchase and installation of the trees.

Before the main road through town was rebuilt, it was narrow with two lanes, no curbs, and not very much appeal.

Importantly, its reconstruction incorporated trees into the redesign rather than being added as an afterthought. Now the avenue is, indeed, pedestrian-friendly. It has well-signed crosswalks, each with mid-road planters that slow traffic and add security for people crossing. As the trees mature, they will add even more of a safety buffer as well as shade that prolongs paved surface life and reduces summer heat.

City forester Chris Boza is to be commended for overseeing the planting of some 165 trees made possible by the CTE grant. He made certain the right species were selected for the planting sites and that they were installed correctly to ensure vigor and long life. In much of the area, the trees were planted in swales for the additional benefit of storm-water mitigation.



David Stephenson

Trees have helped transform Hayden's downtown into a beautiful, inviting place to visit and shop. Note the diagonally-placed tree grates. This innovation was the idea of David Stephenson. Since the tree roots have growing space in adjoining lawn area, he suggested cutting the traditional 4' x 4' grates in half, thereby cutting their cost in half.

The President has also submitted his FY2011 budget proposal for the Forest Service—the first step of the budget appropriations process. Funding for Urban and Community Forestry—including the funds the Idaho Department of Lands receives for community forestry assistance—is contained in this budget. While the President's budget reduces or keeps flat funding for most State and Private Forestry Programs (Forest Health, Forest Stewardship and National Fire Plan), it proposes a 6% increase in urban and community forestry – up about \$2 million from last year. The budget proposal can be viewed at <http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/>. Click on the FY 2011 Budget Justification document—urban and community forestry starts on page 6-27. Idaho Representative Mike Simpson is the ranking minority member of the House Appropriations Committee that will soon begin work on this budget.

These legislative efforts can have a profound impact on communities in Idaho and the issues they face. They affect assistance efforts, grant opportunities and much more. Consider providing your perspectives to our Idaho Congressional offices on the value of these programs to your community. They really appreciate hearing from their Idaho constituents.

— David Stephenson

Community Forestry Coordinator

Congratulations to New Certified Arborists

According to a recent announcement by the International Society of Arboriculture, the following individuals have successfully completed the requirement to be certified arborists:

Librado Chavez, *Twin Falls*

Anthony Crill, *Caldwell*

Nathaniel Davis, *Kooskia*

Larry Demarse, *Garden City*

Mary Kay Giersch, *Boise*

Jeremy Peirsol, *American Falls*

For more information about certification requirements, go to the regional or national website of ISA or contact anyone listed in the masthead of this newsletter. Certification is recommended for all city, institutional or commercial workers who do tree planting or maintenance in Idaho.

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
For address changes, program assistance or additional information, contact Community Forestry Coordinator, Idaho Dept. of Lands, 3284 W. Industrial Loop, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815; 1-800-IDAHO4U = 1-800-432-4648 or 208/666-8621; fax 208/769-1524; e-mail communitytrees@idl.idaho.gov.

Field Contacts

Northern Idaho: Northwest Management, Inc., PO Box 9748, Moscow, ID 83843. Ph. 208-883-4488 (king@consulting-foresters.com)

Southern Idaho: Gerry Bates, C. F. Ass't., 2445 John Adams Parkway, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. Ph. 208/522-5964 (gabates@cableone.net).

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Idaho Study Attracts Attention

It is not every day that an urban forestry study makes the front page in *The Spokesman-Review*. But a study announced in our Spring 2008 issue is nearing completion and has caught the attention of the mass media as well as city officials. It was even picked up by Associated Press for use in papers beyond Spokane and the Panhandle.

The Idaho Department of Lands has been heavily involved in the cooperative study that used high-resolution aerial photography and software modeling to determine the environmental and financial benefits of tree canopy over the 118-square-mile Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The nice part of the media coverage was that if more cities are aware of the benefits that were documented in the study, the more likely they are to consider trees as a valuable part of the infrastructure instead of simply something aesthetic. Key preliminary points from the study were reported in the Summer 2009 issue of this newsletter. If you missed it and would like a copy, please contact anyone listed in the masthead on this page.



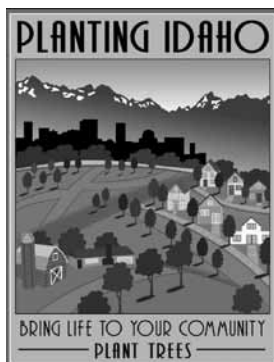
Joyce Jowdy

The 'bottom line' of the northern Idaho study is to encourage tree planting and care so that more Idaho cities have the many practical, money-saving benefits provided by a well-stocked, well maintained community forest. The study found that tree canopy covers about 14% of Coeur d'Alene, 7% of Hayden and 6% of Rathdrum and Post Falls. Goals have now been set to increase these figures to 30%. The results will be huge savings in energy and road surface maintenance as well as cleaner water and less air pollution.

Lawyers Team Up to Plant Trees in Utah

The American Bar Association (ABA) teamed up with the nonprofit organization, TreeUtah, and other local organizations in March to plant trees in South Jordan City, Utah. The project is part of the Great Salt Lake Audubon Society's Jordan River Migratory Bird Habitat Restoration Project. It was held in conjunction with the ABA Section of Environment, Energy and Resources 39th Annual Conference on Environmental Law.

The tree planting was part of the ABA's One Million Trees Project, a five-year national effort to plant one million trees across the United States. At the Utah event, volunteers from ABA were joined by hundreds of local citizens, public school and college students, scouts and community businesses.



Forty Idaho Cities Received Arbor Day Grants

There are 40 communities in Idaho this year that are purchasing and planting trees on Arbor Day with help from grants administered by the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association and Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Program. Funds

for the \$300 grants were made possible through the generous contributions of Avista, Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power. There were 74 applicants. The lucky winners for 2010 are listed below. For information about the annual grant program, please visit Idaho's Community Forestry website at www.idl.idaho.gov/Bureau/community_forestry/arbor_day/index.htm.

Ammon	Hailey	Nezperce
Arimo	Hayden	Nez Perce County
Bancroft	Hayden Lake	Oakley
Boise	Inkom	Orofino
Bonnars Ferry	Ketchum	Peck
Buhl	Kimberly	Pocatello
Chubbuck	Kooskia	Ponderay
Crouch	Lava Hot Springs	Priest River
Culdesac	Lewiston	Swan Valley
Deary	Melba	Ucon
Donnelly	Menan	Victor
Downey	Moscow	Weiser
Driggs	Nampa	
Filer	New Meadows	

U of W is New Tree Campus USA

The University of Washington in Seattle became the first Tree Campus USA in the state of Washington. The university also received a \$5,000 grant from Toyota and the Arbor Day Foundation that was used to plant 50 trees in the Parrington Lawn area. The trees replaced elms that were recently removed due to Dutch Elm Disease.

Which institution in Idaho will demonstrate leadership and become the first Tree Campus USA in our state?



Calendar

May 3-4

Tree Risk Assessment Course & Exam – Assessing Tree Risks in Urban Areas and the Urban/Rural Interface – Richland, WA. (Contact the Pacific Northwest Chapter of ISA (PNW-ISA) at (800) 335-4391 or pwilliams@pnwisa.org).

June 3-4

Tree Risk Assessment Course & Exam – Assessing Tree Risks in Urban Areas and the Urban/Rural Interface – Spokane, WA. (Same contact as above).

June 24-25

Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council summer meeting – Boise, Idaho. (For more information, contact the Idaho Department of Lands at (208) 666-8621).

July 23-28

International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference and Trade Show – Chicago, IL. (Visit www.isa-arbor.com/conference for conference brochure and registration form or phone (217) 355-9411).

October 3-6

Society of Municipal Arborists Annual Conference and Trade Show – Albuquerque, NM. (Visit www.urban-forestry.com or e-mail UrbanForestry@prodigy.net for more information).

November 9-11

Partners in Urban Forestry Conference – Philadelphia, PA. (Visit www.arborday.org (click on conference link under Programs) for more information, or phone 1-888-448-7337).

Upcoming Certified Arborist (CA), Municipal Arborist (MA), Utility Arborist (UA), Aerial Lift Specialist (ALS) and Certified Tree Worker (CTW) written Exams

May 20 — Orem, UT (CA)¹

May 21 — Copperton, UT (CA)¹

June 5 — Lewiston, ID (CA)²

June 5 — Twin Falls, ID (CA)²

September 25 — Pocatello, ID (CA)²

July 14 — Logan, UT (CA)¹

¹For information or to register, contact: Utah Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at (801) 446-8229 or email: Lisa_UCFC@yahoo.com.

²For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: info@pnwisa.org.



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Tree tip

Tree Vigor Problems? It Could be the Water!

Water is normally one of a tree's best friends. But there are circumstances when this isn't the case.

- It has been said that more trees 'drown' than die of drought. Be careful that lawn sprinklers, park irrigators or hoses do not provide excessive water for trees, especially those in depressions.
- Tree foliage that has been dampened in late afternoon or evening can be made vulnerable to leaf diseases caused by fungi or bacteria. Dogwoods are particularly sensitive.



All things in moderation!

Avoid high irrigation methods that routinely wet the foliage of young trees.

- Most trees do best in soil that is on the acidic side of neutral. Some water is high in salts and over time can move acidic soil to the alkaline side of the pH scale or increase already alkaline soil. Ask your water department what their water analysis shows. Soil pH can be tested with kits or sent to a laboratory. Your local extension agent can help.